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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

President Bush: I would like to spend my holiday in Turkey -  
Hurriyet  
Bombs did not change Bush program in Turkey - Aksam  
FM Gul: No US demand for new Turkish bases - Aksam  
El-Al suspends Istanbul flights - Milliyet  
Iraqi hell: 100 killed, 320 injured - Sabah  
Socialist International meets in Istanbul - Milliyet  
Iran releases captive Britons - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Bush to urge NATO protection for Iraq at Istanbul summit -  
Zaman  
Bush to ask NATO to train Iraqi forces - Radikal  
Washington wants new defense deal with Turkey - Cumhuriyet  
Talabani suggests general amnesty for PKK - Zaman  
Turkmen: Unrest in Kirkuk may cause civil war - Yeni Safak  
Violence growing in Iraq - Radikal  
Resisters strike at five Iraqi cities - Cumhuriyet  
BBC to set up Arabic channel - Radikal  
Athens happy about efforts to reopen Halki Seminary - Zaman

BRIEFING

President Bush due in Turkey: Turkish papers expect  
President Bush to voice support for Turkey's EU membership  
at the June 25-26 US-EU Summit in Dublin, Ireland. Bush  
will highlight the constructive attitude of Turkey during  
the UN-backed negotiations for reunification of Cyprus, and  
will press EU leaders to grant Ankara a date for entry  
talks. "Cumhuriyet" does not expect President Bush to  
announce a US package of measures about Cyprus. US sources  
say that changes may be needed in some US laws and  
regulations in order to take steps forward. Therefore,  
discussion of a 'Cyprus package' during the Bush visit are  
not realistic, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Turkish papers also  
expect Ankara to urge President Bush to authorize US  
military action to remove the terrorist PKK presence from  
northern Iraq. On Thursday, FM Gul denied news stories  
claiming that President Bush would convey a list of new  
military demands during his visit to Ankara.

Washington wants new defense deal with Turkey: Today's  
"Cumhuriyet" reports that the US believes the 1980 Defense  
and Economic Cooperation Agreement with Turkey is outdated,  
and that a new arrangement that would better fit the defense  
requirements of both countries. Ankara thinks that the US  
is mainly interested in the defense aspect of the agreement,  
and did not care about its economic side. Washington  
believes the world and the threat have changed since the  
agreement was signed, and that a new military approach  
should be developed in line with those changes. In a recent  
visit to Ankara, US Assistant Secretary of State Lincoln  
Bloomfield said the future status of Incirlik Airbase  
depends on the outcome of the strategic dialogue between  
officials of the two countries. Bloomfield's remarks were  
evaluated as an indication of Washington's efforts to bring  
a new definition to its strategic cooperation with Turkey.  
Talabani calls for amnesty for PKK: Patriotic Union of  
Iraqi Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani on Thursday  
called for a general amnesty for members of the outlawed  
PKK/Kongra-Gel. Talabani said the PKK was now divided into  
three, and said that the more pacifist wing led by Osman  
Ocalan was supporting a political struggle. "Most PKK  
members would return to their houses if a general amnesty  
were declared," Talabani stressed. Talabani also noted that  
he did not expect the US to launch a military operation  
against the PKK, and said the Iraqi interim government  
should take a decision for such an action.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

--POTUS Visit  
--NATO Summit

"President Bush's Visit"

Hasan Mesut Hazar commented in the conservative Turkiye (6/25): "A majority of the Turkish public thinks that President Bush has created a great deal of chaos in the world through his mistaken policies. They believe that the American fight against terrorism is really an effort to gain hegemony over the region and its oil resources. President Bush is to arrive in Turkey in this negative atmosphere. Moreover, the PKK issue makes things even worse. His arrival highlights the unmet promise by the US side about the elimination of PKK terrorism in northern Iraq. These issues, which are of particular interest to Turkey, naturally overshadow the NATO summit. It is hard to understand the US silence about the PKK and its bloody terrorism. It creates a serious credibility gap for President Bush, because he is using the fight against global terrorism to justify his every policy, whether right or wrong. Let's hope President Bush is going to make some gestures and announce measures on this issue so that the overall negative atmosphere decreases. Otherwise, both his Ankara trip and the efforts to add new missions to NATO are doomed to fail. Turkey and the US need the strategic partnership more than ever before."

"What is NATO's Aim?"

Taha Akyol commented in the mass appeal Milliyet (6/25): "At the moment the Middle East is a region in crisis. Most likely it will continue to be the world's most problematic region for another fifty years. Public unrest, corrupt and repressive regimes, unresolved border claims, terrorism, and oil all contribute to the dangerous mix. Just like the Balkans at the beginning of the 20th century, today the Middle East affects the whole world through its instability. Turkey is considered by many as a kind of solution to this problem. However, clashes of interests and opinions are preventing a further definition of this solution. Therefore, if NATO tries to spread its activities to a broader geography, it will lose its effectiveness and cracks within its own structure could widen. NATO should be very careful, especially on the Middle East. The US representative to NATO, Nicholas Burns, during his speech in Prague on October 19, 2003, said that 'NATO's main duty is still to defend North America and Western Europe. But, I don't think we can fulfill this duty from where we sit. We have to direct our attention and military power to the south and east. I believe NATO's future is in the south and east, it is in the Greater Middle East.' Burns' formulation is problematic. It is certainly true that the Middle East is in crisis, but the solution is not to be found in NATO. Counter-terrorism is a must, but the necessary changes in the Middle East must be realized through economic and social development. NATO's new function should not be to create more enemies, but to support security, stability and development."

EDELMAN